

**Rowan County
Board of Social Services
March 23, 2010
Minutes**

The Rowan County Board of Social Services met on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the large meeting room at 1813 East Innes Street, Salisbury, NC.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Lillian Morgan, Chairman
Mr. John Blair
Mr. Carl Ford
Ms. Ruth Kennerly
Mr. Jim Sides

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Scullion
Salisbury Post: Shavonne Potts
DSS Staff: Sandra Wilkes, Jane Johnson, Kelley Williams

PROCEEDINGS:

1. Call to Order: Ms. Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Review of Mission Statement: Ms. Morgan read the Mission Statement.
3. Invocation: Mr. Blair offered the Invocation.
4. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Ford led the Pledge.
5. Approval of the Agenda: Ms. Wilkes and Ms. Morgan requested to move Agenda Item 11, Proposed Budget for FY 2011, to Item 9. Comments from the Director would become Item 10, and the Social Services Commission Report would become Item 11. **With the change noted, Mr. Blair moved approval of the Agenda. Mr. Ford seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**
6. Approval of Minutes of the February 23, 2010 Meeting: **Mr. Sides moved approval of the Minutes of the February meeting. Mr. Blair seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.**
7. Comments from the Community: None
8. Comments from Board Liaisons: **Services Support -- Day Care**: Ms. Kennerly reported the Governor has required a 5% reduction in spending on top of a planned \$4.4 million reversion in childcare spending. As a result, Rowan County will be required to revert \$440,000 from our subsidy allocation. It is anticipated that the bulk of these funds will come from ARRA funds. There have been staff resignations in the Child Care unit, which is expected to hamper the ability to respond timely to public needs.

Work First: All Work First emergency assistance funds have been dispersed effective 2/5/10. A new supervisor has been hired. She has begun training.

Child Support: Staff is currently meeting all 9 of the Self Assessment goals. Collections to date are \$5,004,569.

Adult Services: There will be a slot allocation freeze on the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults. APS staff will be doing training for adult care and nursing home staff.

Economic Services – Food & Nutrition Services: Mr. Blair reported there was the largest decrease in FNS applications in February 2010 since May of 2008. There are various reasons for the reduction. People tend to wait until they have spent their tax refunds before applying, February is a short month, and the office was closed one and a half business days for the move. **F&C Medicaid** did not see a reduction in applications in February.

Adult Medicaid: There is a new program called Low Income Subsidy, and DSS began receiving applications for the program in January. This is an automatic match program with Social Security recipients who are not also Medicare qualified beneficiaries. As of this past Friday, 66 LIS applications have been received.

LIEAP: Over 4,200 checks were issued and mailed. Approximately 8 percent were undeliverable.

Almost two months after the move to the new building, staff remain very excited.

Administration: Mr. Ford reported that the annual Community Protocol Task Force meeting will be held on March 29. DSS plans to present the following information: Rowan County's child abuse and neglect statistics for 2009 and recommended revisions to the Community Protocol. Revisions to the Protocol include:

- Expanding the Drug Endangered Child policy (page 13) to read "all adults, including family members and friends who are residing or visiting in the home will be drug tested before the mother and baby leave the hospital."
- Including Rockwell Police Department to the law enforcements agencies listed in the Protocol. This omission was an oversight.

Also to be presented at the Task Force meeting is general information about enhancements that DSS has made during the year, including emphasis on safe sleeping, and development of an "administrative placement team."

Mr. Ford showed a poster about the needs of the Food Pantry that will be placed on the local Access Channels 16 and 22, and will be shown during breaks in the County Commissioner's meetings. A 30-second PSA has been offered if someone would like to speak briefly about the needs of the Food Pantry. This will be a good opportunity to get the word out about the need to donate food items to be given to families while they are waiting on their FNS benefits.

Finance: Mr. Sides advised that some of his report would be covered later in the meeting by Jane Johnson. There is good news to report – An additional \$148,000 allocation will be received for Food and Nutrition Services. This has been brought about by a change in eligibility guidelines. More people will be eligible.

Ms. Sides advised he read an article about food stamp statistics in other states and nationwide. He was amazed to learn that 44% of the total population of Rowan County receives assistance in FNS, Medicaid, or Work First. More and more people need the services DSS offers.

It was noted that unemployment in Rowan County has reached 13.8%. Mr. Sides pointed out that because of people not factored into the figures, the rate may be much higher. The numbers being seen at DSS would indicate that the rate is probably higher.

Children's Services: Ms. Morgan reported the State Office of Social Services has approved additional Special Needs Adoption Incentive Funds for Rowan County after the completion of three new adoptions. This amounts to \$49,000.

Jim Mallinson, with Carolina Counseling Services, is providing in-service training for CPS staff. The training is on substance abuse and mental health issues.

The vacant CPS Investigator position has been filled. The hiring process has begun for filling the Social Worker III vacancy in Foster Care.

The supervisory staff will provide a hot dog lunch for staff on Friday, March 25, at 12:00 noon. Board members are invited.

DSS was recognized for their support of the National Guard and Reserve during 2009. Amelia Godfrey, CPS worker on active duty in Kuwait, nominated DSS. On Saturday, five members of the staff attended the annual North Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Banquet to be recognized. The banquet was held in Greensboro. Mr. Brewer showed the plaque to Board members. Mr. Brewer explained that annually the Department of Defense recognizes employers who support the National Guard and Reserve. North Carolina received approximately 2,500 nominations. Of those approximately 500 are reviewed, and 10 percent, or approximately 50, are chosen. Amelia's letter was read aloud during the presentation. In it, she cited the communication and support she continues to receive while she is gone. She has received a "care package" and a conference call among other things.

9. Proposed Budget for FY 2011: Budget Analyst presented the proposed budget for FY 2011. Although the budget was included in the Board packet, Ms. Johnson passed out some revisions. She explained that one part of the budget is expenditures and the other is revenue. Also provided was a sheet of budget comparisons. Ms. Johnson pointed out that one sheet included in the Board packet was entitled, Revenue Reductions. We have received budget cuts from the State that will continue into the next fiscal year. ARRA funds will end on September 30. Compared to our current budget, the new budget is approximately one-half million dollars short. Ms. Johnson explained how we expect to manage the budget shortfall while continuing programs and services as they are.

Expenditures: Ms. Johnson explained that the staff is set up in different budgets, depending on the program served. Administrative staff serves the entire agency. This includes the accounting staff, clerical staff, and switchboard operator. It was noted that line item has decreased. That is due to the personnel in those positions, and the overhead allocated. Health insurance, various taxes, workers compensation, and 401

(K) contributions are figured at the rate given to us by the County. The retirement rate has increased from 4.9% to 6.45% and is reflected throughout the entire budget.

It was noted that the Professional Services line item and the Moving Services line item were both one time expenses, and will not be continued in the next fiscal year, unless needed for the next phase. Mr. Ford asked if the moving costs are for everything or just what has been done so far. The expense line item should be for everything. Hildrup was contracted to move furniture, and Commercial Works was contracted to move client records.

Service and Maintenance is on-going maintenance for several different kinds of software programs. There were two components of the software for which we will not receive state or federal reimbursement.

Utilities have remained the same. Rent has decreased. Child Support rents office space on Southmark Drive. Rent was budgeted for one month in the new fiscal year.

We have seen a decrease in some costs since imaging began. There have been significant decreases in paper and cost per copy. We expect to see even greater decreases, since we do not have four complete quarters for comparison. Once we are all under one roof, we will not need one of the postage meters, so we will see that expense end.

Supplies and small equipment increased slightly because of staff requests. Each year we ask staff what they feel they need to do their jobs more efficiently. Appropriate requests are included in the budget. It was noted that the large figures listed under C/A: Data Processing are for an imaging budget that was set up, and the figure was later moved. That was a one-time cost. Also, under DP Equipment, the amount for FY 09-10 was \$31,800. This year, the amount requested has increased to \$67,700 due to the number of computers that have aged out after useful life of 5 years. The IT Department recommends placing them on the schedule for replacement. We may not use all that if we do not replace all, and only replace as the equipment as needed.

The next section is SSBG, which pertains to adult services and social work staff. There are fluctuations due to staffing and day sheet coding. Accounting staff review the day sheets, and client needs are reflected in the various budgets by programs. This section of the budget contains contracts with an individual who performs competency evaluations and day care contracts for elderly and disabled adults. Budgets that follow are: Adult Care Home Case Management, Adult Protective Services, and In-Home Aide Services. Contracts with Bayada Nursing, Comfort Keepers, and Primary Health Concepts are found in the In-Home Aide section of the budget.

The next section of the Expenditure Budget is related to Foster Care. Permanency Planning, Independent Living/LINKS, Title IV-E Services, Foster Care Visit Funds, and Special Needs Adoption Funds are found in this section. The Independent Living/LINKS contains line items for making purchases for foster children who are aging out of the system. Foster Care Visit Funds receive funding, which will be discussed in the Revenue section of the budget. Also, there is additional funding associated with Special Needs Adoptions. As discussed earlier, we will be receiving an additional \$49,000 in adoption incentive funds this year, and those funds carry forward year to year.

Child Support Incentive and Child Support Enforcement follow. It was noted that a part-time office assistant is funded with Child Support Incentive Funds. There is a line item set up for the remainder of the incentive funds, awaiting determination on what those funds can be used for. They must be reinvested in the Child Support program. The Child Support Enforcement section contains the contract with LabCorp and Orchid Cellmark for providing paternity testing. We are charged the State rate, which is \$31 per test.

In the Child Day Care section, it was noted there is a decrease in the payments. As discussed earlier in the meeting, there was a diversion of day care funds back to the State. For FY 10-11, it is estimated we will receive \$4.77 million for day care payments, compared to \$5 million in FY 09-10.

The Public Assistance budget begins on page 18. This section contains the contract for Rowan Helping Ministries, that administers the Crisis Intervention Program funds. The section also contains the EBT (Food & Nutrition Service) cards. The State contracts with a vendor to administer the program at \$.55 per case per month. The State estimates the County share at \$32,153 for EBT issuance and \$9,177 for the call center. There was an increase in Medicaid Transportation due to an increase in the number of clients. The line item for Emergency Assistance has been reduced as it is felt there are enough other types of assistance to meet the needs.

Other programs funded are Child Welfare – State, and Child Protective Services. The County Programs page shows the donated funds, general assistance programs, and drug screening costs. The drug screening costs continue to increase, and a change in the Community Protocol requires testing of all adults who have access to a new-born who has tested positive for drugs.

The last part of the Expenditures budget is the Public Assistance Payments. We are not permitted to show any increases in those line items. Increases must be reflected in the Expansion Budget. There will be an expansion request for Foster Care. Figures for Crisis Intervention Payments are based on estimates provided from the State. The Special Assistance line item has remained the same. The WFFA-EA line item was reduced.

General Fund Expenditures for FY 10-11 is \$21,566,703, which represents an increase of \$212,000. However, there is a decrease of approximately \$1 million in the current revised budget.

Ms. Johnson called for questions. There were none.

Revenues: The revenue section was discussed next. Ms. Johnson explained that State Aid to Counties is no longer a part of the Revenue budget. The State voted to take that out of the budget for a two-year period. It should be returned to county budgets in FY 2111-2012. Many revenues are going down due to State allocations being decreased by 16% last year. Those cuts are continuing, and the State has taken some additional funds. The State share of Permanency Planning was taken away this year, along with Child Support's Return on Collections. We will not be getting the AFDC/TANF return any longer, which reduced the Child Support revenue by almost \$30,000.

There has been an increase in estimated revenue in some of the uncapped allocations, such as Medicaid Assistance, because we expand staff activity in that area. Capped allocations do not change, so if there are any increases, those increases become County funded.

Mr. Blair commented about Title IV-B Administration (page 130). The State changed the way those funds were handled. The County used to pay the Board rate. Now Counties must pay all expenses up front, then receive reimbursement for the State's portion back from the State. Mr. Blair asked how this is working out for the County. Ms. Johnson responded that the County is paying more. That is part of the expansion request in foster care. We are asking for additional funding to cover that "up front" expense. Ms. Johnson advised that Nazareth is approximately \$4,500/month, and we pay that total amount. We receive approximately half back from the State. Even getting reimbursement, we are paying out more County funds than we were paying.

Mr. Blair asked Ms. Johnson to explain the Foster Care Visitation (page 10). Ms. Johnson advised that we had been getting \$5,000/year for IV-B caseworker visits. These funds are provided so staff can provide more face to face contacts with families. This year it is estimated that we will receive approximately \$22,000 for that purpose. These funds can be used to offset the foster care staff. Mr. Blair referenced a contract that we have with a company to facilitate visits. The contract is with M Facilitation, Inc., and information will be presented in the Expansion Budget. The foster care visitation funds cannot be used to offset the cost of the contract with M Facilitation.

Mr. Sides referenced the IV-B Foster Care Payments found in the Expansion Budget. The request is in the amount of \$222,476, and revenue is estimated of \$89,904, leaving a county cost of \$132,572. Mr. Sides asked if the entire \$132,572 is "new money." Ms. Johnson responded that we are requesting part of the funds in the current year, through budget amendments, as well as continuing funding through next year. This is "new money." Mr. Sides asked if IV-E Foster Care Payment is the same type situation with the county cost of \$37,294 being "new money," totaling \$169,866 new cost to the County because the State changed the way they pay. That is correct.

Mr. Sides referenced the Budget Comparison sheet, noting the revised budget for 2009-2010 was \$23,229,019. The Continuation Budget was \$21,566,703, making a difference of approximately \$1.5 million in expenses. Revenues were approximately the same, with the budget amount of \$15,763,471, with the Continuation Budget amount of \$14,252,152, which is also approximately \$1.5 million.

Expansion Requests: Ms. Johnson explained that the first two requests are for Foster Care IV-B and IV-E. To arrive at the requested amount, we took current year costs and added 5% for growth. It was noted that the clothing costs seem to be decreasing, so some of the clothing costs were used to offset these requests.

Assistance to the Blind increased by \$87. The budget is given to us every year, and this is the amount of increase reflected in that line item.

Share the Warmth: DSS receives a small amount every month from the donations made to Piedmont Natural Gas. We are requesting \$1,500 up front so that we will not have to keep submitting small budget amendments throughout the year.

Electronic Document Management: We have been pleased with the electronic document management system, and are now beginning to realize staff efficiency and savings in other areas. We are seeing big reductions in paper and copier costs. We would like to add another group of staff to the Northwoods system. The estimated amount is \$161,091. We expect revenues of \$46,111, reflecting a county cost of \$114,980. We are unable to get a larger reimbursement because there is a restriction on certain types of software. Adult Medicaid is the program that will be added to electronic document management next.

We are going to request a Foster Care Social Worker and a Child Protective Services Social Worker to manage the work load. Cost, including the amount of reimbursement, is included with the request. We expect approximately half of the cost to be reimbursed by the State.

The M Facilitation and three laptop computers follow in the Expansion Budget.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the Comparison Sheet. The first set of figures is the current year approved budget. Next is the current year revised budget. Next is the Continuation Budget, which reflects \$7.3 million in County funds. Adding the Expansion Budget items for Public Assistance only, the County funds increase to \$7.487 million. Adding the entire Expansion Budget, including staff and laptops, the total is \$7.676 in county funding.

The following comparisons on the page compare the Continuation and Expansion Budgets to the approved budget and the revised budget, reflecting the amounts of increase and decrease for each. In summary, if all budget requests are approved, DSS will be requesting \$868,121 more than the approved budget amount last year.

Ms. Johnson called for questions. Mr. Sides asked which of the expansion items are priorities. It was noted there is a critical need for at least one position in Child Protective Services. The caseloads are so high, and the complexity of the cases makes this need so great.

Mr. Blair commended Ms. Johnson for being able to come up with a budget that was so close to the previous year's budget. Mr. Sides also commended Ms. Johnson for being conservative with this year's budget.

The second priority would be the imaging program for Adult Medicaid. There are 5,000 active Adult Medicaid cases currently. If the various programs that are part of the new healthcare plan are approved, there is going to be a huge category of newly-eligible Medicaid recipients. This will be the single adults, with no dependents group. Mr. Sides noted it would have been hard to keep up over the last year with the increase in clients without the imaging system. Ms. Wilkes advised that the Adult Medicaid program is the most complex of all the programs. The eligibility requirements are very detailed because of the high cost of Medicaid for this category of recipients. This program serves the elderly, blind, and disabled of our population; and \$94 million was paid out during the past year.

Mr. Ford commented that there have been additional funds identified yesterday, and it may be possible to utilize some of those funds for the imaging system. He encouraged Ms. Johnson to prioritize requests.

Noting the need to prioritize requests in case cuts are necessary, Mr. Sides moved to accept the budget as presented. Mr. Blair seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

10. Comments from the Director: Ms. Wilkes advised that March is National Social Worker Month. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) focuses on the profession and how social workers work within the community with various community agencies to improve social conditions. Rowan County DSS has 192 employees, and 52 are Social Workers. There are 12 Social Work Supervisors or Program Administrators. There are two employees who work in the capacity of Social Work Assistants because they transport children and supervise visits between parents and children in Foster Care. We have one child welfare attorney. There are 67 social work related positions within DSS. Most of those positions are in Children's Services, which has 21 CPS Social Workers, and 12 Foster Care Social Workers. Jon Hunter, the One Church One Child Coordinator, and Beverly Mobley, the Rowan for Kids Coordinator, are included in this category. There are 7 Social Workers in Adult Services, 5 in Adoptions, 5 in Day Care, and 2 in Work First Employment Services.

The theme for this year is: Social Workers Inspire Community Action. Ms. Wilkes shared some of the activities that Rowan County DSS Social Workers have been doing to inspire Community Action.

Day Care SW, Felicia Walker, provided day care subsidy for a grandmother who was caring for grandchildren. With this subsidy, the grandmother was able to return to school to earn her college degree.

Work First Employment SW, Patty Klutz, has been working with a mother who was in the job search component of the program. This mother has not had a lot of experience, and has been unsuccessful in finding a job. Ms. Klutz practiced interview skills with the client, and she has been hired by a company in Salisbury. This mother is well on her way to being productive and successful.

Adult Services SW, Bridget Stubbs, has a young client with early Alzheimer's. This man has a child in middle school. The client is unable to stay at home alone, but the mother needed to work to support the family. Ms. Stubbs was able to get the client placed in an adult day care program so the wife was able to continue to work. As the Alzheimer's progressed, Ms. Stubbs was able to get the client placed at the Lutheran Home. She was also able to help the wife and child find more affordable housing.

Adult Services SW, James Morgan, has a guardianship case involving an elderly nursing home resident. This client's only living relative is a sister who lives out of state. Mr. Morgan has been keeping in touch with the sister. The client's sister sent a letter to James' supervisor letting her know how much she appreciates being able to know of her sister's condition. She relates that she has a sense of peace knowing that someone on the DSS staff has her sister's interests at heart.

Foster Care SW Supervisor, Micah Ennis, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday, May 1, at a Conference for parents and professionals working with special needs children. The topic of Ms. Ennis' presentation is "Don't Pray for Strength, Honey."

The efforts of Adoptions Social Workers have placed 23 children in permanent adoptive homes since July 2009.

CPS Social Worker, Wendy Baskins, handles training on abuse and neglect for various agencies within the community. She recently received a letter of appreciation from Salisbury High School after speaking at their professional development workshop.

Jon Hunter went to Pitt County to do One Church One Child training. They hosted Mr. Hunter for three days for him to assist them in getting the OCOC program started.

Ms. Wilkes noted that the poor economy has increased the workload of our social workers, while it has decreased our resources. We often talk about the impact of the public assistance programs on the community. However, it is difficult to put a number on all that social workers do to impact the community. Every one has been impacted or will be impacted by the work of a Social Worker.

Ms. Wilkes will be sending a thank-you note to social workers for all they do for Rowan County DSS and for the community. The Board reiterated their thanks for social workers who have a difficult job.

11. Social Services Commission Report: Dr. Tom Scullion addressed the Board about the services of the Social Services Commission. Dr. Scullion is the Chairman of the Commission. Dr. Scullion explained the Commission is an executive branch commission that acts as an intermediary between the executive and legislative branches. There are 13 members, one from each of the Congressional districts. Members are appointed by the governor. The Commission meets four times a year, with teleconferences between meeting times. The purpose of the Commission is to promulgate rules and regulations and to assist in translating these rule changes into administrative regulations.

As changes in administrative regulations are proposed, counties and private entities are given 60 days in which to respond.

The Social Services Commission is responsible for appointing two or three members to the county Boards of Social Services. The County Commissioners appoint the other members. Nominations are submitted to the Commission. To accomplish the appointment, the Commission asks the nominee to submit information about himself. The Commission also makes nominees aware of the basic duties of being a member of the DSS Board prior to the nominee accepting the appointment. Dr. Scullion asked that recommendations accompany nominations when they are submitted for consideration. There may be some revisions made to the nomination process in the near future.

Dr. Scullion distributed copies of the Social Services Commission Statutes, which establishes the responsibilities for the Commission. In addition to DSS program related issues; other responsibilities include inspection of jails, relationships with fundraising entities, and overseeing maternity homes. Two functions that are excluded from Commission responsibility are: anything pertaining to Medicaid and any part of the DSS budget process. Mr. Sides noted there seems to be a disconnect in that the Commission has no input in budgetary processes, when funding is such an integral part of what DSS does. Dr. Scullion responded the Commission functions as a processing function and that DSS Boards and Boards of County Commissioners carry more influence in those matters.

Dr. Scullion encouraged Board members to stay in touch with the Commission. Contact and communication are important in making things better.

12. Medicaid-funded Births: Concerns from the community were raised at the last meeting concerning Medicaid-funded births in Rowan County. Ms. Wilkes has researched statistics and found that in 2008 there were 1,834 births in Rowan County. Of that total, 1,111 were funded, at least in part by Medicaid. That means that 60.6% of the births in Rowan County in 2008 were funded in some way by Medicaid. The State average for 2008 is 52.6%. Rowan County is 8% above the State average. Data on the total number of births in Rowan County in 2009 were not available; however, 1,242 births in Rowan County received Medicaid-related funding. This represents an increase of 131 births from 2008. For 2009, \$4,700,803 Medicaid dollars were spent on 1,242 births, averaging \$3,785 per birth.

One concern raised by a citizen was that Medicaid recipients should be required to reimburse a portion of what was received in benefits. There is a program, the Medicaid Cost Avoidance program, to recover some of the Medicaid costs. Medicaid costs amounting to \$247,492 were avoided in 2009 by court-ordered child medical support. Projected cost avoidance for this year is \$330,000 for all types of Medicaid programs.

An eligibility requirement to receive pregnancy-related assistance (MPW-Medicaid for Pregnant Women) is that one's income cannot exceed 185% of the federal poverty level. For a mother and her unborn child (family of 2), gross income cannot exceed \$26,955/year. The gross monthly income cannot exceed \$2,247.

Currently there are approximately 460 MPW cases, and we receive approximately 75 new applications every month. MPW will cover the mother from the start of her pregnancy through two months after delivery. At that point, a caseworker will assess the situation to see if the mother qualifies for another type of Medicaid. The baby will be covered for 13 months, even if there is a change in income or resources. When the baby is around 11 months old, the caseworker will receive an alert to assess the case to determine eligibility for another type of Medicaid or NC Health Choice for the child.

The federal government requires states to provide Medicaid to pregnant women and infants when the income is at 133% of the poverty level. Using the federal guideline, the gross yearly income is \$19,000. Every state must qualify recipients at that level, but states have the option to expand the coverage. North Carolina qualifies recipients at 185%, making more people eligible to receive this benefit.

Ms. Wilkes stated that because Medicaid helps assure healthy mothers and babies, costs will be reduced later on. When babies are born prematurely and when there are health problems, it can be costly to the health care system. North Carolina has chosen to act proactively, and spend money up front to avoid high costs later.

One reason that Rowan County has a high number of Medicaid-funded births is that a lot of women seek prenatal care through the Health Department. Our Health Department has a program called the Maternal Care Coordination Program, which assists pregnant women in locating resources to help them through their pregnancy.

In looking at other statistics related to Medicaid-funded births, it is important to note that

Rowan County has:

- Infant mortality rate lower than the State average
- Number of low birth weight babies lower than the State average
- Percent of uninsured citizens higher than the State average
- Unemployment rate higher than the State average
- Per capita income lower than the State average

Legislative changes would be necessary before Medicaid recipients could be required to reimburse a portion of their Medicaid benefits. DHHS would need to begin the process of changing the eligibility rate from 185% to something lower that would make fewer people qualify for the program.

13. Subcommittee on Prescription Drug Abuse: Ms. Wilkes distributed a summary and copies of the Power Point presentation from the last Subcommittee meeting. The Power Point was provided by the Rowan-Salisbury School System. It contains information from the youth risk behavior survey. The Subcommittee has met twice and is still in the fact finding stage. The date of the next meeting has not been set. The plan for the next meeting is to hear a presentation from the Drug Enforcement Agency on the prescription drug monitoring system. Ms. Wilkes will let Board members know the date of the next Subcommittee meeting. Board members are invited to attend.

14. Other Matters: None

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the large conference room at 1813 East Innes.

16. Adjourn: **Mr. Ford moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blair seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.** The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:
Kelley Williams

Signed Date

Secretary Date